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BRIEFE EXHORTATION TO ALL MEN TO fet their houses in order.

By WILLIAM IONES B. of D. Preacher to the He of Wight.

I Con. 14.40.

Let all things be done decently, and in order.



LONDON,
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dwelling in Redicrossestreete. 1631.

EXHORTALION.

By William Long Boy D. Presscher to the Court of Street

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HIGH TREASURER OF ENGLAND, CAPTAINE OF THE
ISLE OF WIGHT:

AND TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFVLL THE BARGNETS,
KNIGHTS AND GENTLEMEN:
AND TO HIS LOVING BRETHREN
THE MINISTERS: AND TO
ALL THE INHABITANTS OF
THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

SERVANT VVISHETH VVELLORDERED FAMILIES ON EARTH,
AND EVERLASTING HAPPINES
IN HEAVEN.

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ORDERED FAMILIES ON EARTH,
AND EVERLASTING HAPPINES
IN HEAVEN.

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To the Christian Reader:



HEN thou readest this small I reatise, take thy pen and blot out what is superfluous, and amend what is amisse, and supply what wants: And if any

thing be judged profitable, forthwith begin to put it in practife thy selfe, and to persuade others to doe the like. So shall wee all have better families, and the King better subjects, and God better servants.

Thine in the Lord Ichis,

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To the Christian Reader!

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El EN thou readelt this in all treatife, take thy final treatife, take thy feet and less to take thy feet and less to take the word amend when it amiffe, and fupply thing he imaged profitable, forthwith begin to forthwite to perfusale of their to doe the like 2300 18See all have being the feet families, and the King better fubicities, and the King better fubicities, and the King better fubicities, and

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BRIEFEX:
HORTATION TO:
all men to fet their houfes in order.

Set thine bouse in order.



Ving with my selfe what might be the cause of so many evills and calamities as have violently assaulted our Land within these sew

yeares. I could impute all to nothing more than to the great desorder that is in all orders from the highest to the lowest: And inquiring further how such disorder might haply arise, notwithstanding

we have many good orders daily established by the care of our Superiors, both in the Church and Common-wealth, for all estates and Degrees. I perceived the occasion of all mischiefe to be the want of good Houshold Government.

Wherfore I resolved with all my might to presse the Doctrine of Houshold Government upon the consciences of all that shall heare or reade this short meditation.

I have chosen for the ground of all that I shall say, those words, I say 38.1.

Set thine house in order.

These are the words of the Lord of heaven and earth, which he commanded Isaiah the Prophet to speake unto Ezechiah the King.

Prince, and abounded with wealth, as you may see at large, a Chron. 3 2. 27 And therefore there is no man so great; but may vouchsafe to hearken unto that which is said unto him. This Executable was as good as great a For a Kings 1803.

Hee did that which was right in the fight of the

the Lord, so that after him was none like him of all the Kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. And therefore who is lo good and well-ordered, that may not vouch-Life to hearken unto these words? Wherefore I beseech you all to whom these words shall come, hearken with reverence and good conscience unto the same. Thus faith the LORD, Set thine house in order, Thus they are read in our last Translation, and in some former Translations; and in the margent here and ellewhere, tis noted that the Hebrew phrase is, Give charge concerning thy boufe: this comes all to one reckoning. For when God laith, Gen. 18. 19. that Abraham will command his children and his boushold after him, it is, that they keepe the way of the Lord, and doe instice and indgement. And this is to fet his house in order. Some Interpreters, both here and 2 King. 20. take these words to be a Direction to the King, to make his last will and testament. But considering that 'tis evident, that when the Patriarks made their last wills, they did not onely dispose of their

their goods, but also gave charge concerning the well ordering of their houses af-

ter them, this need not interrupt us.

For my part, at this time I will follow the generall meaning of the words, as they are translated, and doe my best endeavour, 1. To shew the necessitie of setting every mans house in order.

2. I will declare the best way how

our houses may be set in order.

3. I will conclude with exhortation.

Touching the first. That it is necessarie that every house be set in order, may

appeare:

1. Because, else the Common-wealth cannot bee well ordered. For the Com. mon-wealth confifts of severall houses, and if the severall houses which are so many members, be not well ruled; how can the whole body be well ordered?

The body of a Common-wealth may not unfitly be compared to the body of a great Armie. Now concerning an Army, it consilts of many Regiments, and every Regiment of fundry Companies, which have their severall Captaines to traine

them

hem and teach them due order: And f these private Captaines doe not teach their severall bands due order, 'tis not possible on a sudden to cast the whole Armie into a great orderly body: Even so in the Common-wealth, if every Master of a family, (who is as it were a Captaine of a Companie of souldiers in the Church Militant, doe not well order the severall persons committed to his charge, how can they observe order when they are called out to serve publickely in the Church or Common-wealth? A few. bands in an Armie disranked, may trouble, nay confound the whole Ar. mie: Even so a few disorderly families may bring much hurt upon the whole Common-wealth.

Wherefore as wee tender the good of the whole Land, let us every one in his place bee carefull to order those that are committed to our charge in our particular families.

Againe, the necessitie of setting in order our severall families will appeare, if wee observe how diligent the men

Bartain lo siliant of

of God, I meane the Patriarks, Prophets, and Apostles, yea and the Kings of Israel and Judah have beene to set in order their owne houses.

Concerning Abraham, the Lord himselfe sayes, Gen. 18.19. I know him, that hee will command his children and his houshold to keep the way of the Lord. Pererius gives this note, that by this it seems to have bin the godly practise of the Fathers, to catechise and instruct their families; and that this is a worthy peece of service performed unto the Lord, may appeare, because God alledgeth this as one reason why hee reveales the destruction of Sodome unto Abraham, and a motive to bring upon Abraham that which hee had spoken of him before.

The like course in ordering their samilies it seemes Isaac the sonne, and Iacob the Grandchild tooke: For though Isaac had a reprobate sonne Esau; and Iacob divers lewd sonnes; yet it was not for want of instruction. For whence did Ioseph (who was solde into Egypt when he was young) learne his religious conversation, but in the samilie of his father Iacob.

But But to passe by uncertainties, and to hold me to that which is certaine. Josh. 24.13. Joshua makes this protestation, As for me and my house, wee will serve the Lord. Here you see this great man Joshua promiseth not onely for himselfe, but also for his house. And doe you thinke hee did more than he needed to doe? Doubtlesse he was of another minde than Cain, who said, Am Imy brothers keeper? Hee knew and acknowledged it was his dutie to looke to the well ordering of his whole family, though they were many in number.

From Joshua I descend to David, whose behaviour touching the well ordering of his house, ye may see, Psal. 101.2. There he professeth to God, that he will behave himselse wilely I will walke within my house with a perfect heart, saith he. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithfull of the Land, that they may dwell with me. He that walketh in a perfect way shall serve mee. Hee that worketh deceit shall not dwell in my house. Hee that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. I will destroy all the wicked of the Land, that I may cast off

Here it is remarkeable, that David the King, intending the reformation of his Kingdome, begins first with his owne samily, because hee well knew, except order be kept in private samilies, there can be no good order in the Commonwealth.

To Joshua and David wee may adde Cornelius, who as ye may see Acts 10. was very carefull to keepe his servants in order.

Now behold that which Abraham, Joshua, David, and Cornelius did is recorded for our instruction; Every commended ensample in Scripture is propounded for the instruction of all that heare the same. Take wee therefore from hence speciall notice, that it is our duty to set our severall houses in order.

Will you say unto me, these foure were great Commanders, and had authoritie in their hands to compell the refractary, but we which are private men, for want of authority, can never hope to compasse this main businesse?

I answer; The Scripture affords examples of private men and women which have well ordered their families. Among these I give preheminence to Ionadab the sonne of Recab, who so well ordered his family, that after his death a long time it remained an excellent order. And therefore the Lord himselfe propounds that family as a patterne to all the people of Israel, and gives a blessing to the same, Ierem. 35.

In the second place I note Aquila and Priscilla his wife, whom, being but crassifmen, S. Paul commends very highly, not onely for instructing their owne families, but also for directing their neighbours,

Rom. 16.

In the third place come Timothies Grandmother Lois, and his Mother Bunice, who
as S. Paul records, 2 Tim. 1.5. were so carefull in ordering young Timothie, that
when he was a very young man, he was
admitted to be the great Apostles Companion, Act. 16.1. Neither may we thinke
that these godly wome bestowed all their
pains upon one Timothy, but upon the rest
of their familie.

In

In the fourth place I name the Elect Lady to whom S. John dedicates his fecond Epistle; and the beloved Gains to whom he writes his third Epistle: Together with Nymphas, Col 4 15. & Philemon 2.2. who had as it were Churches in their private families, as the Scripture faith. The meaning is, they so well ordered their families, that they might rightly be called little Churches or holy Congregations, It is the Note of learned Zanchius upon Col. 4. concerning Nymphas his house: There is said to be a Church in his house, saith he; because, Erat tota familia bene et Christiane instituta, sicut solent esse Ecclesia, Quia ibi legebatur verbum Dei, coarquebantur peccata, ad panitentiam excitabantur singuli, fiducia in Christum afflictis conscientiis inculcabatur, adbibebantur consolationes, ad studium Sanctæ vitæ incitabantur, preces babebantur, canebantur Pfalmi, coc. That is, the whole family was well and Christianly ordered, as Churches use to be: Because there the word of God was read, sinne was reproved, all were exhorted to repent, they which were afflicted in mind were coun-

selled to be confident of Gods mercy in Christ, all were stirred up to holinesse of life, prayers were used, and Psalmes were lung,&c.

By these examples which I have propounded our of Gods word ye may cafily see, that heretofore all beleevers were carefull to order their owne families, though they were never so meane: and hereupon it came to passe, that the Church of God, the number of beleevers did so mightily increase in those primative times: And verily the reason why iniquity doth so abound in these dayes is, because Governours of families doe as it were cast the reignes in the necke of those that are committed to their charge, and even suffer them to doe what they will in regard of religion without controlment. For who can bring a wel-governed Common-wealth out of a rabble of disordered families 3bro llow orbined bonyojno

Wherefore, if the examples of the Patriarks and men after Godsowne heart be able to prevaile with us any thing, let the same minde be in every one of us which

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which was in them: Let us all with one accord bend our selves to set our severall families in order.

Thus much for the second reason inforcing the well ordering of private families, namely the example of holy men

from the beginning.

The third reason is the commande. ment of God, not onely in my Text, but allo in other places: If there were but this one commandement in all the Scripture, were it not sufficient? But beholde divers others tending to the fame purpole: Deut. 6.6. &c. This commandement is given to every Master of a family; The words that I command thee this day shall be in thy heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talke of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest downe, and when thou risest up. What is here: enjoyned but the well ordering of all families according to Gods word? First, the Master of the familie must hide Gods words in his heart, but not as the floathfull fervanethat hid his talent in a napkin, but: but he must lay them up there, that hee may have them in a readinesse to teach and instruct his wife, children, servants, and neighbours; and hee must so where Gods words upon them, that they may understand them, and keepe them, and doe them.

The practise of Abraham mentioned by God himselfe, Gen. 18.19. may serve to explaine this place. And doth not Salomon tell us, Prov. 4.4. that when hee was tender whis father taught him and said unto him, Let thine heart retaine my words, keept my commandements and live, Co.

mong Gods people to instruct their families according to the forenamed commandement, appeares Prop. 31. where King Lemuel sets downe the Prophecie that his mother taught him, that is, the holie and wholesome Doctrine which she instilled into him concerning the well-ordering of his conversation. Let these therefore bee examples and motives to all Christians, by godly instruction to order their families; year seeing S. Paul,

which was the Apostle of the Gentiles, and spake by inspiration, saies, Rom. 15. 4. What soever things are written aforetime, are written for our instruction. Let us beleeve that the Lord saith unto every one of us as well as he did to King Ezechiah, Set thine house in order.

This being lo, what can be more necessarie than to inquire in the next place, how and after what manner a familie

may be well ordered? 21 131 100 mel

Now, without all question, the best Rule whereby to order a samilie is the word of the onely wise God, which is conteined in the holy Scriptures of the Olde and New Testament. Hereby have holy men in all ages ordered their houses: Wherefore let us also take direction from the word of God how wee may well order our severall samilies.

Now if yee fearch the Scriptures, yee shall finde that to the well-ordering of a familie two duties are required:

The first concernes God: 1 110d 196

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The dutie which wee owe to God, even in our private houses, in plaine termes, is holy worship and godly service. I Tim. 2.8. S. Paul, who was sent by Christ to bee the Apostle of the Gentiles, saith, I will that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands. If every where, then in the familie as well as in the Church: And under invocation is comprehended all holie worship and service.

Againe, Joshua saith when hee doubted what the rest of the Israelites would doe, I and my bouse will serve the Lorde Josh. 24.15. Here is intimated not onely publike, but also private worthin and service in a shidung adaptions as doubtervice in a shidung adaptions as doubtervice.

Besides, wee all desire the blessing of the Lord as well in our private families as abroad, and therefore its requisite that wee serve God as well at home as abroad. For the blessing of the Lord is promised onely to those that serve him.

Godline ffe,

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Godlineffe, faith S. Paul, 1 Tim 4.8. hath the promise of the life that now is, and the life to come. Now that is true godlinesse, when a man is addicted to serve God at all times, in all places, as well privately as publikelyorly that S. S. E. Rail viscoliv

But what is this holy service which avec are commanded to performe in our where, lifting up boly bands. clilimist

Answ. It stands in Institution, Invocation, and Discipline and : dorind off

Houshold Institution is a plaine and familiar kinde of instruction, which the Governour of the familie uleth for the building up of all the members of the familie in the truth which is according to 24 15. Here is intimate. Planilbog

The meanes hereof are either daily, or such as concerne the publike Ministery.

The daily meanes are either the continuall ule of Gods word, or the observation and application of the works of God.

The continual use of Gods word requifite in private houses is this. That the Master of electamilie daily reade, or cause to be read some part of Gods word, & for those

those things which are plaine, or which he hath leavned by the publike Ministery or Orthodox Expositious, that her whet them upon his familie, and urge them by way of catechising to meditation and practise. This is plaine by that forecited text, Deut. 6.6,7,8cc.

The application of Gods workes is, when the Master calls his house to the daily observation of all Gods works whether of mercy or judgement; that there by hee may beget in their hearts gods thankefulnesse, contentment, confidence for the time to come, and all such other graces as the due consideration of Gods workes will bring for the bluow and noisilated among that

The meanes of Institution which concerne the publike Ministerie are probable. That the Master prepare his family by prayer and admonition, and take such order that they may all refere unto the publike assembly in due time; and there behave themselves as becomment Christians, and our aloolow that & 81,71

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wered, and helpe them forward in the meditation of the Word and Sacraments.

Neither is it sufficient cursorily or superficially to doe all this, but it must be done by way of authoritie, and with great reverence and conscience.

And therefore they are in a wretched estate that take upon them to be Governours of samilies, and yet never offer to speake one word of instruction to their houshold, nor take order that others may. Ignorance in this case will not excuse. Besides, if every Master would daily use in his samily the Church Catechisme, wherein are contained all the sundamentall points of religion, hee would greatly prosit both himselfe and his family, and hinder much idlenesse and wickednesse.

The second thing wherein houshold service stands is daily invocation of the name of God in prayer and thanksgiving.

The Scripture calls us to pray continually, and in all things to give thanks, I Thef. 5. 17,18. And if we looke into the practife of holy men, we shall finde that it was

ufuall

usuall with them to pray in their houses two or three times a day. David saith, Psal. 55. 18. Evening and morning, and or noone will I pray. And of Daniel itis said, I hat hee prayed and gave thankes three times a day before his God, Dan. 6. And of Job its recorded, that hee offered up burnt offerings continually for his children, Job 1.5.

Now what better patternes can Masters of families propound unto them-Selves than David, Job, and Daniel? Wherefore as they have done and have beene praised throughout all generations; so let every Master of an house take order that it may be done in his familie. In the morning when wee have beene kept in the darke and dangerous night: And when we are to goe forth to our labour, what more fit than to goe forth in the name of the Lord ? Thou desirest that the Lord would bleffe thy businesse in the hands of thy servants, therefore let them joyne with thee in prayer. This family-prayer ought to be made early in the morning, when all the familie which are in health ought to arise after the example of Christ Iclus.

I have often thought of that saying of S. Augustine, Indecens of Christiano at commadius solis inveniation lecto: that is, It is unbeleaming a Christian that the Sunne rising should finde him in bed. This long lying in bed is that which hinders many Masters that they cannot pray with their families.

Another set time of prayer ought to be the evening, when the familie returns from their labour, and are going to sleep, which is the elder sister of death: then is a fit time to praise God for all the benefits of the day, and to pray for protection in the night. Many have gone well to their beds, and beene found dead in the morning: therefore methinkes none should be so presumptuous as to got to sleepe without calling upon the Lord, and pouring out his soule before him.

Belides morning and evening, therebe other times for prayer and praise every day; namely, as oftenas we betake our selves to eate and drinke. I Tim. 4.4 Every creature of God is good if it be received with thank siving: for it is sanctified by the word

and prayer. Whofoever therefore hallenter upon any of Gods creatures without prayer and thanksgiving, hath not the creatures fanctified unto him dysin and I

I wonder then that fome should be lo profane and impudent as to scoffe at those that solemnly prayle God at meales, and pray for a bloffing, especially if their Grace bee a little longer than ordinary. Doubtlesse this is an evident token of gracelesse men. Neither is it any marvell though many use Gods creatures to furfetting and drunkenhelle, when they make no conscience to have them fanctified by prayers salam assala lie on both

With ordinarie prayer in the familie, wee must sometimes joyne singing of Pfalmes. The chiefe exercise of the Saints in heaven is faid to be giving of thankes, and finging praise unto God: why then should this exercise on earth seeme tedious to any man that hopes to fee God cas he is in the heaven, and beare a part in that releftiall Queered med bads and in

Morcover, besides ordinarie prayer es venie day; perhaps dometimes in ishall ebnuod

be found requisite for the Master of the familie to call to extraordinarie prayer, which is commonly joyned with fasting. This may be done in a common or private calamity, or when some extraordinarie blessing is requested, as Nehem. 1. 4.

Acts 10 30. Ester 4.16.

Now concerning this bleffed fervice of prayer to be used dailie in everie familie, me thinkes I should not neede to use motives, considering that God doth so greatlie delight in it, and the whole world is not worth this one prerogative of believers, that they may at all times and in all places make their requests knowne unto the Almightie, and aske anie thing of him in the name of Christ, and have a promise to be heard.

If the Lord had commanded us everice day with great cost to offer unto him factifices morning and evening, would we not doe it? How much more, when hee faithunto us, onelie, Aske and have.

The third part of holie service to be used in private families is wholesome Discipline. This must not exceede the bounds.

bounds. A Master of a samilie may proceede neither to excommunication, nor execution of any of his samilie never so wicked. The course that Governours of severall houses may take, is this.

First, if their children or servants be unrulie, they must tell them of their faults

in the spirit of meeknesse.

Secondlie, if they doe not amend, they must rebuke them sharplie.

Thirdlie, if that will not prevaile, they

must correct them.

Fourthlie, if private admonision and correction will not bring them into order, the Master must require the aide of the publike Magistrate. As it is, Deut. 21. 18. If a man bave a stubborne and rebellious some, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that when they have chastened him will not bearken unto them; Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the Elders of his City, and they shall say unto the Elders of his City, This our some is stubborne and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; hee is a glutton and a drunkard: And all

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the men of the City shall stone him with stones that he dye. So shalt thou put evill away from among you, and all I fraell shall heare and

feare.

Thus it should be. But alasthow hath foolish pittie thrust out wholesome house holde Discipline? Fathers and Mothers are so farre from correcting and rebuking their unrulie children, that they are angrie if anie neighbour speake unto them by way of admonition. Therefore have we just cause to seare less the Lord deale with us as he did with olde Ely, because hee was too favourable to his lewed sonnes.

So also for evill servants, what Master now adayes will take any paines by wholesome admonition and due correction to bring them into order? Some Masters indeede behave themselves like lyons in their houses towards those that will not doe their worke according to their minde: but if they will follow their businesse, they regard not how leved and wicked they be otherwise. If they will not presently servetheir turne, they will not presently servetheir turne, they will

not labour to make them better, but turne them away: And so it comes to passe that they which are silthic, or lazie, or ignorant, remaine so still, and the Land swarmes with a generation of deboshed servants; so that its hard to sinde a faithfull servant, and all for want of execution of wholesome Discipline in private families.

Thus much for the former dutie con-

The second concernes our selves.

For the better performing of this dutic, note that there are three combinations or couplements in the familie. First, there are the husband and the wife. Secondlie, Parents and children. Thirdlie, Master and servants.

That a familie may be well-ordered, it is requifite that these three couplements which stand in relation each to other, doe keepe their ranke.

The dutie of the husband is that hee dwell with his wife as a man of under-flanding, giving honour unto her as the weaker vessell, and loving her as his

owne flesh, and be not bitter unto her.

The Wifes dutie is to submit her selfe unto her husband, and to doe him good and not evillall the dayes of her life.

The dutie of Parents is to bring up their children in the knowledge of Gods will, and in some lawfull calling, wherein they may further the Common-weale.

The dutie of Children is to obey their

Parents.

The dutie of Masters is to provide for their servants soode and raiment, and sufficient imployment: they must also take order that they may be instructed, and if neede be, corrected.

The dutie of Servants is to honour their Masters, though they be but meane men, and to obey them with seare and trembling, not answering againe, but doing service to them in singlenesse of heart as unto Christ.

All these points are so plainly set down in the holy Scriptures, that they need not explanation but execution. And where any of these couplements keepe not their ranks, or neglect the forenamed duties,

the

the familie cannot be well ordered.

Wherefore as we love order, and reverence the God of order, let us fet our selves from this day forward every one of us to keepe his owne order, that so every severall familie being well ordered, the whole Common wealth may come into good order, and consequently that God may be moved to remove from us his judgements of plague, famine, and unseasonable weather, which our manifold disorders have brought upon us.

There is none of us but now and then cries out upon the disorder in the Land, and prayes for reformation: But assuredly in vaine doe wee looke for publike reformation, unlesse wee will every one

reforme our owne families.

As long then as we live disorderly our selves, or keepe any disordered person in our houses, whether sonne or daughter, man-servant, or maid-servant, yea or any kinseman or stranger, wee are enemies to our owne desires, and which is more, adversaries to the Common-weale.

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Which

Which imputation if wee doe justly abhorre, then let us with all our might endeavour every one of us from the highest to the lowest according to the holic commandement of the Lord of Lords, to set our houses in order.

Deo Patri, Filio, et Spiritui sancto, sit omnis laus, bonor & gloria in æternum:

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